

Parasympathetic ganglion

Parasympathetic ganglia are the autonomic ganglia of the parasympathetic nervous system. Most are small **terminal ganglia** or **intramural ganglia**, so named because they lie near or within (respectively) the organs they innervate. The exceptions are the four paired **parasympathetic ganglia of the head and neck**.

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Of the head and neck

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Of the head and neck

These paired ganglia supply all parasympathetic innervation to the head and neck.

- iliary ganglion (sphincter pupillae, ciliary muscle)
- pterygopalatine ganglion (lacrimal gland, glands of nasal cavity)
- submandibular ganglion (submandibular and sublingual glands)
- otic ganglion (parotid gland)

Roots

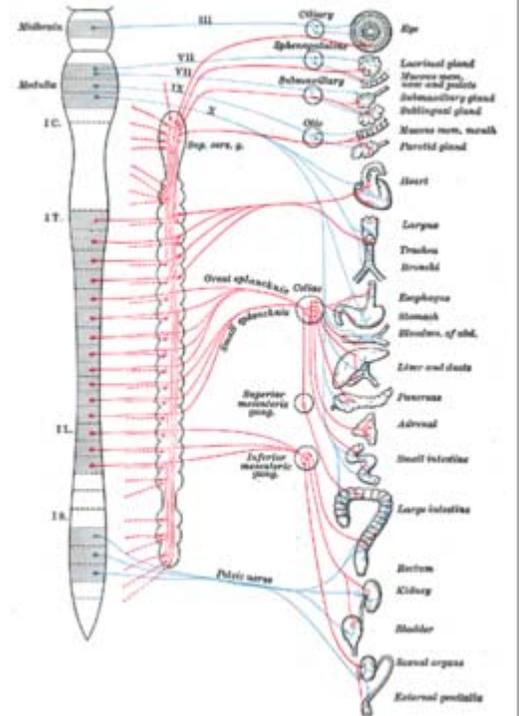
Each has three roots entering the ganglion and a variable number of exiting branches.

- The **motor root** carries presynaptic parasympathetic nerve fibers (GVE) that terminate in the ganglion and synapse with the postsynaptic fibers that, in turn, project to target organs.
- The **sympathetic root** carries postsynaptic sympathetic fibers (GVE) that traverse the ganglion without synapsing.
- The **sensory root** carries general sensory fibers (GSA) that also do not synapse in the ganglion.

Some ganglia also carry special sensory fibers (SVA) for taste sensation.

Nerves supplying parasympathetic fibers

Parasympathetic ganglion



Autonomic nervous system innervation, showing the sympathetic and parasympathetic (craniosacral) systems, in red and blue, respectively

Details

Identifiers

Latin *ganglion parasympathicum*

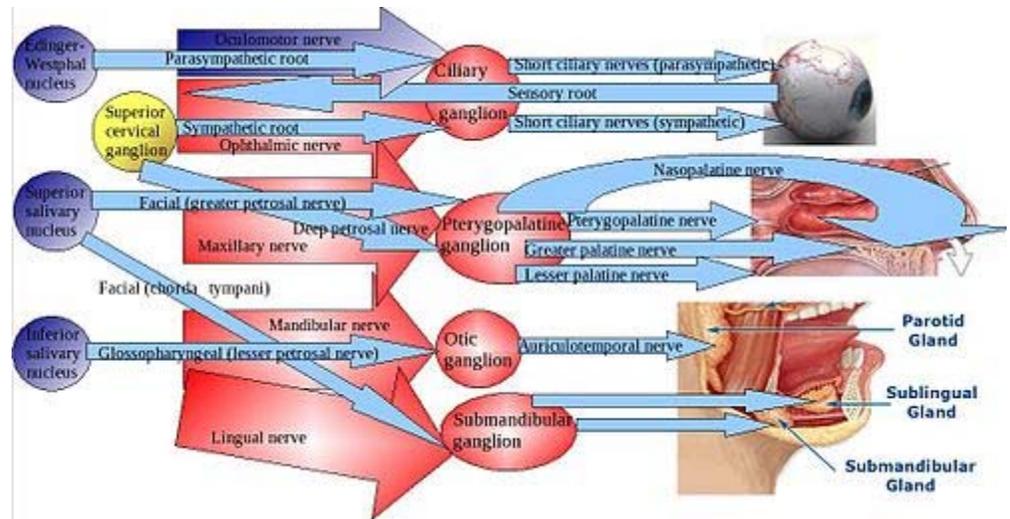
MeSH D005726 (<https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/record/ui?ui=D005726>)

TA A14.2.00.012 (<http://www.unifr.ch/ifaa/Public/EntryPage/TA98%20Tree/Entity%20TA98%20EN/14.2.00.012%20Entity%20TA98%20EN.htm>)

FMA 5894 (<https://bioportal.bioontology.org/ontologies/FMA/?p=classes&conceptid=http%3A%2F%2Fpurl.org%2Fsig%2Font%2Ffma%2Ffma5894>)

- oculomotor nerve (ciliary ganglion)
- facial nerve (pterygopalatine ganglion, submandibular ganglion)
- glossopharyngeal nerve (otic ganglion)
- vagus nerve (no named ganglion)
- pelvic splanchnic nerves

Anatomical terminology



Parasympathetic ganglia of the head

External links

- Histology image: 04601loa (<http://www.bu.edu/histology/p/04601loa.htm>) – Histology Learning System at Boston University
- Autonomics of the Head and Neck - Page 4 of 14 (https://www.med.umich.edu/lrc/coursepages/m1/anatomy2010/html/modules/head_autonomics_module/autonomics_04.html) anatomy module at [med.umich.edu](http://www.med.umich.edu)
- The Autonomic Nervous System (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080611073338/http://microvet.arizona.edu/Courses/VSC401/autonomicNervous.html>) from the University of Arizona
- Diagrams (<http://137.222.110.150/calnet/AutoH&N/page5.htm>)
- "Terminal ganglion - Auerbach's plexus - plastic section" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20010426015642/http://casweb.cas.ou.edu/pbell/Histology/Captions/Nerve/pl.colon.auerbachs.20.html>)

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